

EMBRYOLOGY. By M. B. L. Craigmyle, M.B., Ch.B., M.D. (Pp. V+208; figs. 86. 16s). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1966.

THIS little book, written primarily for the medical student preparing for the Second Professional Examination and the postgraduate student working for the Primary Surgical Fellowship Examination, has already proved itself very popular with many undergraduates. The text is easy to read and covers such subjects as maturation of the germ cells, fertilisation, early embryogenesis, implantation and organogenesis. Short sections on determination, teratogenesis and the development of immunological competence are included and may appeal to a wider audience than those in the groups mentioned above. The excellent and clearly drawn illustrations will be found most useful by all types of readers as they express in easily recalled line form the essential features of the subjects dealt with. As an introduction to the subject of embryology and as an "aide memoire" for quick revision before examinations this book has much to commend it.

W.R.M.M.

THE CAUSES AND NATURAL HISTORY OF CLEFT LIP AND PALATE.

By Cecil M. Drillien, T. T. S. Ingram and Elsie M. Williamson. (Pp. VIII+288; figs. 37. 47s 6d). Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1966.

THIS book gives a detailed account of a well-planned and painstakingly-executed study of 172 consecutive patients with defects of the lips and/or palate, by two Edinburgh paediatricians and a health visitor.

In addition to a complete clinical survey which includes associated abnormalities, neonatal problems, effects on subsequent health and development, speech, dental problems and surgical management, there is a valuable discussion of the relative roles of genetic predisposition and environmental factors in the production of these malformations. The final chapter, critically reviewing the finding of the survey, is a model for anyone undertaking a study of any congenital abnormality.

The book as a whole will be of much interest to persons working in the fields of genetics, social and environmental medicine, paediatrics, dental, plastic and paediatric surgery, speech therapy and medical statistics. It is produced to the publishers' customary high standard, and is recommended without reservation.

J.A.D.

NOTES ON CLINICAL SIDE-ROOM METHODS. Prepared by the Subcommittee in Medicine of the Medical Education Committee, Edinburgh. Second Edition. (Pp. VIII+96; figs. 10. 10s 6d). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1966.

THIS paper-back booklet was written primarily for students, with the hope that it might also be of value to house physicians and their seniors. Despite the clinicians' reliance on specialist laboratory services the appearance of a second edition in three years indicates that there is a place for a publication of this kind, especially with the commercial development of "dip" and tablet biochemical tests. It will be useful in general medical practice and in hospitals without their own laboratories.

Only tests of real value are included and it is a pleasure to note that the red cell count is omitted. Descriptions of techniques are clear, if a little lengthy in places; and the accurate performance of some tests will be beyond the ability of most of those not trained in a laboratory. The use of the microscope and other apparatus is carefully explained; the addition of a paragraph stressing their care and maintenance is called for in future editions, because the unkempt state of apparatus and reagents in most clinical side-rooms is a laboratory worker's nightmare.

This booklet is recommended for the dwindling few who do not send all their specimens to the laboratory.

C.C.K.